

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The specification is amended to include section headings.

Claims 1-9 were previously pending in the application. New claims 10 and 11 are added. Therefore, claims 1-11 are presented for consideration.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 4-7 are allowable.

Claim 8 is amended to clarify the first and second pairs of edges to address the claim objection noted in the Official Action.

Claims 1-3, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over ROEBROEKS U.S. Publication No. 2007/0116906. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the joining region is a continuous region. See for example Figure 1.

The Official Action offers the overlapping edges of upper metal layer 1 and lowermost metal layer 3 of ROEBROEKS as a joining region.

However, such joining region does not meet the recited continuous joining region.

Rather, the area indicated as a joining region in ROEBROEKS contains two sub-joining regions which are at a distance from each other and separate from each other. The middle metal layer 2 is positioned between such said sub-joining regions.

Alternatively, if the joining region of the upper metal layer 1 and the lowermost metal layer 3 were considered as continuous with the joining region of the middle layer 2, then such joining region of the metal layer 2 would be inside the continuous joining region and not outside as further required by claim 1.

In view of this, ROEBROEKS never discloses a continuous joining region with a second pair of overlapping edges outside the joining region as recited in claim 1.

The dependent claims are believed to be patentable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

New claim 10 is added and recites that the first pairs of overlapping edges, for example 9, 10 in Figure 2, are offset with respect to each other and immediately adjacent to each other. ROEBROEKS does not disclose such a configuration.

New claim 11 is added and recites that the additional metal layer is only in the second section. See second section 15 of Figure 1.

By contrast, even if an additional metal layer were added to ROEBROEKS, as suggested in the Official Action, such

additional layer would be throughout the entirety of ROEBROEKS, as ROEBROEKS never suggests having an additional metal layer in only one section of the laminate.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing Remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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